THE ARMENIANS.

All About the Curious Habits and Customs of the Most Persecuted People of the Orient.

A Probable War Between the Sultan and the Czar-The Armenians as Business Men-They are Smarter Than the Greeks and the Jews-A Look at Their Country-Mount Ararat, the Garden of Eden and Nosh's Vineyard-The Armenians of Constanti nople, Their Pretty Women, etc.-How Armenian Girls Bress-Their Curious Marriage Customs, and How They are Bossed by Their Fathers-in-Law-A Look Into an Armenian House, and Some Funny Things About Armenian Bables-Russia versus Turkey, and Other Interesting Matter About the Eankees of the Orient.

special Correspondence NATIONAL TRIBUNE. WASHINGTON, August, 1890.



HE troubles which the Turks are having with the Armenians in the regions along the Black Sea may cause a war between the Sultan and the Czar. The Mahometans are accused of persecuting the Eastern Christians, and Russia, in her greed for empire, would like to make this a pretext to seize another slice of Asiatic Turkey, and thus bring herself nearer to India. The Armenians are the Yankees of the

Orient. They are the brightest, brainiest and amartest in business of all the Eastern peoples. The Turks say, "Twist a Yankee and you make .Jew; twist a Jew and you make an Armenian." The Greeks say that one Greek is equal to two Jews, and that one Armenian is equal to two Greeks; and another saying is, "From the Greeks of Athens, the Jews of Salonika, and from the Armenians everywhere good Lord bulk of the business of the Far East. They own all the large business establishments, run all the banks, and are the clerks of the Levant. I found rich Armenians in India competing with the Parsees and working side by side with the half-starved Bengalese accountants. I traveled with one coming from Singapore to Calcutta, and he told me he had been to Hong-Keng to sell pearls to Chinamen. He showed mes handful of beautiful pearls and told me he was getting rich out of his business. On the Egyptian railroads I found that the conest men I met during my stay at Constantino-



TURKISH PEDDLERS. ple was one of the Sultan's private secretaries, who spoke half-a-dozen different languages and who was of Armenian birth. The most of the banking business of Turkey is done by Armemians, and you will not find a Jew pawnbroker in New York who will demand a higher per cent or drive a harder bargain. It is so with

much of the mercantile business, and wherever

you find brains, education and business tact

required in the Turkish Empire, you will find

that an Armenian is somewhere about to fur-

WHERE THEY COME FROM. Still there is practically nothing known about the Armenians outside of Turkey. Agreat number of them come to America, but we look upon them as Turks, and when we enter their Oriental rug stores we think we are talking to Mahometans. The fact is that the Armenians are the oldest of the Christian peo-Asia Minor, south of the Black Sea, and beof Eden was. It is a barren spot now, and some of the rivers have dried up. Mount Ararat is made up of volcanic rocks, and a ravine in it is pointed out as the site of Noah's vineyard. There is a monastery near this, and the monks have a withered old vine which they say is the one which produced the grapes that made the wine that made old Noah drunk. He cursed it, and it has borne no grapes to this day. The Armenians believe that the wise men of the East who traveled to Bethlehem to see the young Christ were Armenians, and they saw the star first here. They have many curious religious superstitions. They believe that the apple stuck in Adam's throat and made the Adam's apple which every man has there. They say that when God was making Adam of clay He had a little piece left over, and He threw this on the ground and it became gold and formed all the gold of the world. They believe that if Adam had not fallen he would have never died, and they say that when Adam was in the Garden of Eden his body was covered with nails, which overlapped each other like the scales of a fish, and thus gave him an inwulnerable armor. After the fall these nails fell off, except on the ends of his fingers and toos, where they remained to remind him of his lost immortality. These, however, are merely some of the superstitions of the Armemians. Their creed is, I am told, not unlike



ARMENIAN FAMILY. that of the Greek Church, and I saw thousands of them at Jerusalem celebrating Easter. They have a Patriarch there, a tall, thin, fine-looking man with a long beard, and they united with the other sects in all the mummeries of the oceasion. They have their monasteries and their churches scattered throughout the East, and they are as a rule as religious as the Jews.

THE ARMENIANS OF CONSTANTINOPLE. I met a number of these Armenians during my stay in Constantinople. They do the business of the Capital of Turkey, and you find them everywhere. They carry all the burdens of the city, and the Turks call them "the camels of the Empire." They have a guild of porters, who are practically the drays of the city. These porters carry immense burdens upon their backs. They have a little saddle of leather, which they fasten just below their shoulders, and on which the burden rests. A strap is tied around the box or bag which they are carrying, and this is fastened to the shoulders and sometimes supported by a strap around the forehead. These men bend themselves hall double as they work, and some of them will carry as much as 500 pounds from one part of Stamboul to the other. A number of the Armenians are architects, others are engineers, and I met one very bright Armenian doctor. When I went to get my letter cashed in the bank an Armenian clerk figured up the exchange and an Armenian cashier gave me my

money. I saw a number of Armenian women,

and found that they look not unlike the other Turkish ladies. Womanhood in Turkey, howthe Soudan and red-haired, rosy-cheeked, fair-faced maidens from Circassia. The Armenian girls have, as a rule, large eyes with long eyelashes. They are tall and straight, and they take on fat very soon after marriage. They are very intelligent and very voluptuous. Many of them marry Turks, and now and then one takes after



ARMENIAN FRUIT VENDER. deliver us!" These three races, in fact, do the her brothers and gets into the mission schools and becomes well educated.

THE ABMENIANS AT HOME. The Armenian women of Armenia are much different from those of Constantinople. They have a dress of their own, and they wear red fez caps with long tassels, much like those of some of the country girls of Greece. They the baby is three days old, to show them the wear a loose jacket lined with fur, and a long new arrival. When the baby is eight days old girls wear trousers under their skirts, and these on the doorstep of the church while its godtrousers are of raspberry-colored silk, and are father partakes of the sacrament and is conductors were Armenians; and one of the bright- tied at the ankles. Some of them have long fessed in order that he may be purer when he sleeveless jackets reaching to the feet, and stands up with the baby. The godfather kneels open at the sides up to the waist, and others | while he holds the baby and the priest asks a wear gorgeous head-dresses, covering the front lot of questions of the baby, which the godof the face with gold coins, which hang down father, as its mouthpiece, is to answer. He puts their whole dowry upon their person. They | that of the Presbyterian Church, and the godhave strings of pearls about their ears, and father, answering for the child, replies to the their necks and wrists are decorated with gold questions. After this there is a long prayer. and pearls. The poorer girls try to imitate their richer sisters, and they are as proud as our American servants. None of them like to work away from home, and some of the finest embroideries we get from Turkey are made by these Armenian women. The best of the work is done by hand in hovels, and the finest of our American homes have Turkish embroideries made by these Armeniaus.

SOME CURIOUS CUSTOMS.

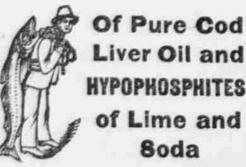
The Armenians have some queer customs in regard to marriage. Girls are often married as young as 11, and women are still young when they have sons of 20. Marriages are largely arranged by the parents, and an Armenian wedding usually takes place on Monday. The Armenian bride is expected to bring only the bed-linen for the house-

hold, and the bridegroom, if he is rich, ought to send a present of jewels or a purse of money to bissweetheart before marriage. No marriages are permitted between relatives, and it is not considered proper for a man or woman to marry the third time. On the Fri-ARMENIAN GIRL day before marriage the

bride is taken to the bath with great ceremony, ple of to-day. They even claim that they have and on Saturday she gives a big feast to her the holiest lands of the Bible. These are in | maiden friends. On Sunday there is another feast, at which all the young men of the neightween it and Persia. Mount Ararat, upon the | borhood are present, and on Monday the ceretop of which Noah got out of the Ark, is in | mony takes place. It usually occurs in a that part of their country where these out- church, and the priest blesses the ring and rages are taking place, and they can show you, offers prayers over the wedding garments. so they claim, the very place where the Garden | After the company have reached home the



A TARTAR HOUSE, ARMENIA. bride is dressed in these garments. A silver plate is tied over her head and over this is her whole person. In this dress she is led into the reception-room, where she opens the dance with her father, and then takes a seat on the divan to wait for the bridegroom. In the meantime the bridgroom has been putting on his wedding garments at his own home, and he comes in grand style with a band of music to | 1 | the house of the bride. The two are introduced to each other by the bride's mother, their heads are pulled together, and upon each forehead is tied with crimson silk a little cross, This is done by the priest. The two then cross the room, holding each other's hands, and the bridegroom gives the maiden over to the bridesmaids and they are led off to church, The ceremony here is quite as long as our marriage ceremony, and after it is completed the couple go back home. At the time that



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TO THE PARTY OF TH

every part of the far East, and the same serag-lio will contain plump ebony Venuses from you be a happy mother." After the baby has been taken away, all the children present rush to take off the bride's stockings and to get the money which has been hidden within them for this occasion. There are other ceremonies, making the wedding last from three to eight days, and the bride's parents are not supposed to visit her until a week after the marriage. When the bride is presented to her father-inlaw and mother-in-law she kisses their hands, and she then fastens on a vail of crimson crepe, which she must continue to wear until her father-in-law gives her permission to lay it has a child, and up to this time she has no right to pass her opinion upon anything that goes on in the family. During the first year of her married life a young wife goes to church only twice-at Easter and at the Feast of the Annunciation, but after this she attends more fre-

THE ARMENIAN HOUSES. The Armenian houses of Armenia proper are by no means comfortable. The poorer classes have homes that would hardly be conof a divan running around three sides of the stay in New York, which proved futile, were room covered with Persian rugs and resting on allowed to proceed to Utah .- Two young a carpet of gray felt. The Armenian women | boys of Albany, Ind., named Wm. Carroll and are good housekeepers, and though they live in | Louis Griggs, stabbed each other to death on little more than hovels they keep their homes | Friday, Oct. 3 .- J. F. Thompson and W. H. clean. They are fond of dress and are by no | Rigell fought a duel at Ashford, Ala. Thompmeans averse to the use of cosmetics.

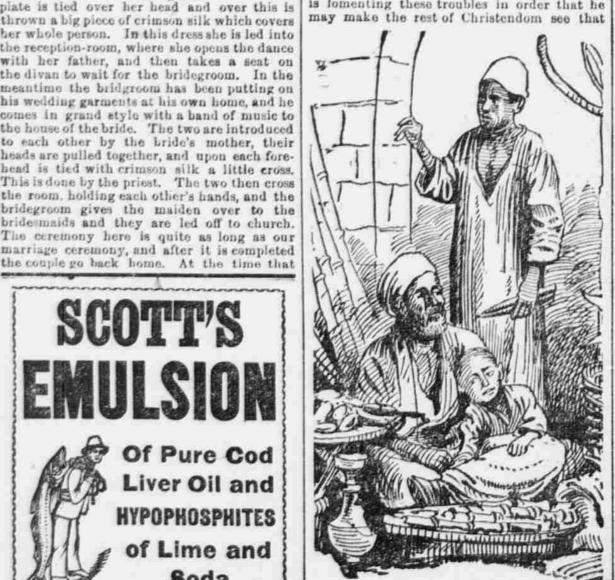
ARMENIAN CHILDREN. The Amenians are very patriotic. They have a much better home life than the Turks, and they are very fond of their children. They have curious customs as to their bables, and the mother gives a reception to her friends when plain skirt of silk or other stuff. Their hair | it is baptized and is washed all over with warm is very luxuriant, and in the Province of Van | water every day before this. The baby is laid over their foreheads. These girls often wear | the old man through a catechism longer than



ARMENIAN WOMEN.

Then the baby has its clothes taken off and the priest asks the eight-day-old baby, "What dost thou demand?" The godfather, answering for the child, replies, "I demand to be baptized," and the priest gets in another question at the young infant, asking, "Dost thou truly demand it?" To this the godfather replies, again speaking for the baby, "I demand with faith to be baptized and purged from sin, to be released from the demons, and to serve God." Hereupon the priest says, " Be it unto thee according to thy faith." The priest then takes the He then dresses the child, after blessing its garments, and puts a taper of red and green wax into its hand, after which it kisses the altar and the cross and the ceremony is over. During this time the priest has bound on the head of the baby a little gold cross, and this cross stays on for eight days after the baptism. The Armenians have all kinds of superstitious has dripped from a mill-wheel, and if a child under nine years of age dies the parents engage a priest to pray for eight days for him. run over the roof of the room in which he is him it is a sign that his soul will be ex-communicated.

RUSSIA VERSUS TURKEY. I had a long talk with ex-Minister Strans, who represented the United States at Constantinople during the Cleveland Administration. He tells me that the Sultan is very anxious to conflicts between the Moslems and the Christians. He says the Sultan is a man of peace, and that he is anxious to do well by the people. The Czar, however, has his eyes on Armenia. He wants to have a war with Turkey, and he is fomenting these troubles in order that he | master-General, will be given the Ministership



ARMENIAN FAMILY. such a war is necessary. The Armenians of key. Religious intoleration is more current in tory of the cotton trade. of the Heathen Sultan. It is hard to get an accurate idea of the Armenians. The books that have been published concerning them are Japan, public speakers denounced the Govern-

they reach the house a sheep is sacrificed on | very incomplete and unsatisfactory, and a large | ment for according to foreigners the right of the threshold, and they step over the blood of part of the information given in the above let- trial by Judges other than native Judges .ever, is made up of a polyglot of races. The this into the house. They seat themselves ter is from a new book on the "Women of Tur- A German lady, Madam Bonet, was arrested at harems of the Mahometans are recruited from | side by side on a sofa, and a baby boy is placed | key," which has just been published in Lon- | Cannes, France, and had in her possession a FRANK G. CARPENTER. NEWS OF THE WEEK.

> CRIMES AND CASUALTIES. The Roban Bros. Boiler Manufacturing Company, of St. Louis, Mo., have assigned, with \$120,000 liabilities - Michael H. Brown, a New | stitution, will elect a President, vote the budget, York drummer, blew out his brains at the and adjourn .- President Reichs, of the Ich-Hotel Penn, Reading, Pa. He had been married | eralbach Orphan Asylum at Nurnberg, Gerbut 10 days .- John O. Nichols, of Lowell, | many, has been arrested on the charge of sell-Mass., shot his sister dead, tried to shoot other | ing orphan girls intrusted to his care to houses members of his family, and then blew out his of ill fame. - Emperor William of Germany own brains.---Frank Grads, who beat out the | has gone to Vienna on a visit to the Emperor aside. This often does not happen until she | brains of Annie Hoffer, his eight year old of Austria .- Druja, a Town of 4,000 inhabitstep daughter, last Spring, was convicted on Thursday, Oct. 2, at Pittsburg, Pa., of murder of the people perished in the flames.—Mr. in the first degree. Leonard Tobias, a young | Headley, owner of a British cutter, and the New Yorker, who had attracted attention by his extravagance, committed suicide by shooting himself through the head at Tokio, Japan, Sept. 13.—Theo. Ferstenberg, an ex-Colonel | suth, the Hungarian patriot, has written a letter of the German army, committed suicide by advising Hungarian extremists to take their jumping from a bridge into the Chicago River. | stand on the dualistic principles enunciated in He fought a man who attempted to rescue him, 1849 .- Sir Thomas George Freake was arand the would-be rescuer was also nearly sidered fit for cows in America, and, in fact, the drowned. - A lawyer named Herrington, of cow lives with the family. The floors are be- Bakersfield, Cal., was taken from the County | ing his private correspondence with a lady to low the level of the readway, and there are jail and tarred and feathered. He had comlittle windows about the size of portholes. | mitted perjury .- James Denton, a farmer, Most of the houses are of one story, and it is not | living near Saratoga, N. Y., shot and killed his uncommon to build a house against the side of | wife and then put a bullet through his own head. a hill, so that there will be no back wall. Step- He was temporarily insane when the deed was ping down into the house you find the cow | committed .- Miss Amelia Richardson, of stable on one side and on the other the kitchen | Winchester, Mass., was burned to death by her | taken to form a new Cabinet, is encountering and the private apartments of the family. | clothing catching fire while preparing break-Each room has a stone fireplace, and all the fast .- J. N. Maring and J. G. Peggs, running cooking is done with cow dung mixed with | pension offices at Columbus, O., Jeffersonville, straw. There are no tables and few chairs, and Ind., Louisville, Ky., and Knoxville, Tenn., were it is a curious thing that a large part of the arrested, charged with gross irregularities .-heat of the room comes from the animal heat E. J. Hubbell was arrested in New York, produced by the cattle in the stable which ad- charged with embezzlement of several thoujoins the kitchen. The houses of the wealthy | sand dollars from an Omaha (Neb.) National and middle class of Armenians are more com- Bank .- Nearly 150 young girls, who had fortable, and in the big Turkish cities you will arrived in New York from Europe and were | The President of the Mormon Church Emphatically find Armenians occupying palaces. In the coun- going to Utah to join the Mormons, were try, however, they have few of the comforts of stopped at the Barge Office by Col. O'Beirne, Christendom, and the chief furniture consists | but after exhaustive efforts to induce them to

> > Richmond and Nelson miners at Dayton, Tenn., to the number of 1,200, are on a strike against reduction of wages .- Three men robbed an express car between Urbana and Bellefontaine, O. They entered the car, tied the messenger with ropes and rifled the car. They jumped off the car as they were slowing up and took | and I deny that either 40 or any other number of to the woods. Two were captured, but the plural marriages have during that period been solman with the swag escaped .- "Doe" Ellis, of Spokane Falls, Wash., was shot and killed by a ranchman whom he had "buncoed."pounds of mail matter sent in violation of the of 1889, but I have not been able to learn who peranti-lottery law .- The Commissioner of Health of Chicago found oxide of lead in rye bread, and it was discovered that the flour was House was by my instructions taken down without poisoned by the paint from the trade-marks on | delay. he sacks in which it is shipped .- Dr. Me-Gonegal was convicted in New York of manslaughter in the first degree for causing the death of Annie Goodman.

son was killed and Rigell is in jail .- The

POLITICAL. are very angry at the appointment of Col. Dow | during the time specified which can reasonably be to the Collectorship at Portland, Me. They believe that Secretary Blaine had a large hand in Constitutional amendment permitting special legislation for cities by a large majority. the laws of the land. Wilford Woodbuff, The Republican Congressional Convention of Day Saints. the Sixth District of Alabama nominated Wm. Vaughn for Congress. --- After a month's session the Democrats of the Tenth District of Tennessee nominated Hon. Josiah Patterson, on the 5,059th ballot, for Congress .- The Republicans of the Second District of Virginia have two candidates in the field, there being a split in the party. Congressman Bowden received a renomination from one wing and Judge C. W. Murdaugh from the other .-Frank M. Sterrett was nominated for Congress by the Republicans of the Eighth Missouri District. - Capt. L. K. Stronp was nominated for Congress by acclamation by the Republican Convention of the Fifth Ohio District. - The Democrats of the Twentieth District of New York nominated Hon. Alexander B. Bauens for Congress.— Hon. Frank B. Arnold was nominated by the Republicans of the Twenty-fourth District of New York for Congress.- Lewis Sperry was nominated for Congress by the Dem- | Remedies, when the best physicians and all other ocrata of the First District Connecticut Con- remedies fail. CUTICURA REMEDIES are the only gressional Convention, --- Hon, R. C. Hill was nominated for Congress by the Republicans of the Tenth District of Kentucky .-- The Republican Congressional Convention of the | 25c.; RESOLVENT, \$1. Prepared by POTTER DRUG Fourth Wisconsin District nominated Hon, R. | AND CHEMICAL CORPORATION, BOSTON, MASS, C. Spencer for Congress. - The Republican County Convention of Clearfield County, Pa., indorsed Gen. Daniel Hastings for Congress

from the Twenty-eighth Pennsylvania District. Gen. Wm. Cogswell was renominated baby and dips it into the water, and after a long | for Congress by the Republicans of the Seventh ceremony declares that it is a child of Christ. | Massachusetts District,-The Ninth Pennsylvania District Democrats renominated Congressman David B. Brunner for Congress .---Hon, Elijah A. Morse was renominated for Congress by the Republicans of the Second Massachusetts District. - Hon. John F. Andrew was nominated for Congress by acclamation by the Democrats of the Third Massachusetts District. -Hon. John E. Wilson was nominated by theories about diseases of children. If the baby | the Republicans of the Second Maryland has malaria he must be bathed in water that District for Congress .- The Republicans of the Seventeenth Ohio District nominated Col. C. L. Poorman for Congress, -The election of Georgia resulted in re-If a man is dying a cat must not be allowed to turning a majority of Farmers' Alliance candidates to both Houses of the Legislature. lying, and if a cat succeeds in leaping over This means the probable defeat of Gov. Gordon for the U. S. Senate .- Hon. Henry Cabot Lodge was renominated for Congress by the Republicans of the Sixth Massachusetts District .- The annual Convention of the National Civil Service Reform League was held in Boston last week. George William Curtis was elected President for the ensuing year .--- At treat the Armenians well, but that the Rus- | the recent election in the new State of Idaho, sians have spies going through the country in. | the Republicans have been successful. Dubois citing the people to trouble, and bringing about | is elected to Congress, and the Legislature will stand 42 Republicans to 10 Democrats. - The Republicans opened their campaign in Connecticut on Friday, and Speaker Reed made a rousing speech .- It is currently reported that Gen. J. S. Clarkson, ex-First Assistant Post-

to China after the coming election. The National Prison Association, which was in session at Cincinnati, O., last week, re elected ex-President R. B. Haves President, and Gen. Brinkerhoff Vice-President .- The City of Boston, Mass., is anxiously waiting the result of the suit of the heirs of Benjamin Franklin against the Franklin fund in Philadelphia, as Boston had determined to use her Franklin fund for the purchase of land for a Franklin Park .- The American committee for the relief of famine in Ireland has issued in New York an appeal to the people of America .-The postoffice at Bishopville, S. C., was closed by order of the Postmaster-General, because of the hostility shown by the citizens toward the appointees of the Postoffice Department .--Secretary Blaine, in a report to the House concerning the treatment of Jews in Russia, says that the tendency in high Russian official quarters is now toward a less severe application of the laws against the Hebrews .- The public debt statement shows that the reduction of the public debt, less cash in the Treasury, for the month of September, amounted to \$4,582,907, and that the total cash in the Treasury amounted to \$679,696,437.05 .-- An extra session of the Ohio Legislature will be called by Gov. Campbell to abolish the Cincinnati Board of Public Improvements, which has been found to be corrupt .- H. Walter Webb, Third Vice-President of the New York Central & Hudson River Railroad, has issued a general order to the Superintendents of the various departments of the road, not to employ men who are connected with the Knights of Labor .---Philip Francis Thomas died in Baltimore Oct. 2. He had been Governor of Maryland, Commissioner of Patents and Secretary of the Treasury under Buchanan. He was elected U. S. Senator in 1866, but was denied admission to that body because of disloyalty. He was 80 years old .- The Iron and Steel Institute of Turkey appreciate the situation. Four years Hewitt, ex-Congressman and ex-Mayor of New America and England presented Abram ago they were very anxious to have Russia help York city, with the Bessemer gold medal. them, but they see that they are more op-pressed under the Russian Government than The crop statement for September, issued by the New Orleans Cotton Exchange, shows the Russia have a harder time than those of Tur-key Religious intelestion is more support in

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number of topographical charts of the fortress and plans of the other defenses of the town. She acknowledged that she is in the pay of the German Government,-The Crown Prince of Roumania is to marry the Princess Victoria of Wales .- The Constitutional Assembly of the Republic of Brazil, after discussing the Concrew of the vessel, which was engaged in fishing for pearls off the coast of New Guines, have been massacred by the natives,--- Louis Kosrested in London for overpowering, handcuffing and stealing the keys of a friend, and destroywhom Sir Thomas was also paying attention. -Emperor William has telegraphed to the Empress and to Chancellor Von Caprivi that his reception in Austria has been most gratifying .- The political crisis in Portugal is becoming acute. Senhor Ferrao, who has undergrave difficulties in the performance of the task .- The trial of Irish Nationalists at Tipperary was adjourned abruptly, owing to the disorderly scenes consequent upon the magistrates ordering Mr. Harrington to leave the

PLURAL MARRIAGES.

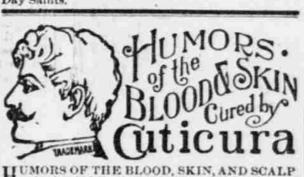
Deales that the Law is Being Violated.

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH, Sept. 24, 1890. To whom it may concern: Press dispatches having been sent from Salt Lake City, which have been widely published for political purposes, to the effect that the Utah Commission, in their recent report to the Secretary of the Interior, allege that plural marriages are still being solemnized, and that 40 or more such marriages have been contracted in Utah since last June, or during the past year; also, that in public discourses the leaders of the church have taught, encouraged and urged the continuance of the practice of po-I, therefore, as President of the Church of Jesus

Christ of Latter-Day Saints, do hereby, in the most solemn manner, declare that the charges are false. We are not teaching polygamy or plural marriage, nor permitting any person to enter into its practice : emnized in our temples or any other place in the Territory.

One case has been reported in which the parties alleged that the marriage was performed in the The postmaster at New Orleans has seized 750 | Endowment House in Sait Lake City in the Spring formed the ceremony. Whatever was done in this matter was without my knowledge. In consequence of this alleged occurrence the Endowment

forbidding plural marriages, which laws have been pronounced constitutional by the Court of last resort, I do hereby declare my intention to submit to those laws, and to use all my influence with the members of the church over which I preside to have them do likewise. There is nothing in my It is said that Speaker Reed and his friends | teachings to the church, or in those of my associates, construed to inculcate or encourage polygamy, and when any Elder of the church has used language which appeared to convey such teaching, he has the selection. - A special election held in been promptly reproved; and I now publicly de-New Jersey last week, shows the defeat of the clare that my advice to the Latter-Day Saints is to President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-



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ferers from Dyspepsia that if they will do likewise they can Positively be cured of this disease. E. D. BEAN, Captain Co. C 2d N.H. Regt., Arlington Heights, Mass.

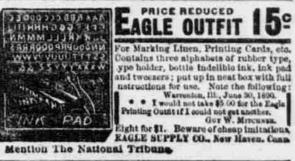
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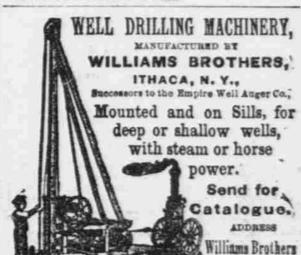


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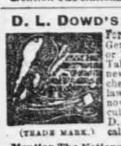
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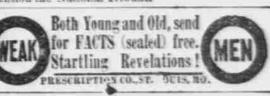
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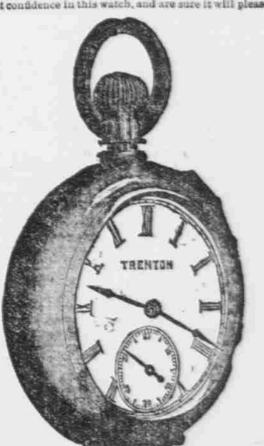
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